

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated April 4, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable claims 13-15.

Per this Response, claims 9, 10 and 12 are amended, no claims are currently cancelled and no new claims are added. Accordingly, claims 9-15 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of pending claims 9-12 is respectfully requested. Applicant notes that claims 9, 10 and 12 are amended to further clarify claimed features and are not amended for the purposes of overcoming any alleged prior art. The amendments to said claims are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments can be found at least at Figures 8 and 9 and pages 15-16, [0065] – [0066] of the Specification. No new matter is believed to be added.

Initially, Applicant wishes to correct an error made in the Office Action at page 2 of said Office Action. The Office incorrectly states “Applicant’s main argument appears to be that previously cited reference do not teach optical fibers separately surrounding a light source and that this feature can be found in Figs. 3, 10 & 11 of the applied Kim et al. reference.” Applicant has not stated, implied or suggested that Kim et al. (or any other reference) features any elements of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests correction of the above Office’s statement.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0022050 A1 (to Yamashita et al.)(hereinafter “Yamashita”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,185 B2 (to Kim et al.)(hereinafter “Kim.”). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Kim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,252,733 (to Norman et al.)(hereinafter “Norman.”).

The rejection of claims 9-12 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 9-12 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “ first and second light source units at both

sides of the light-guiding plate to emit light, each first and second light source unit having at least one luminous element; a plurality of optical fibers each optical fiber corresponding to a luminous element and surrounding a circumference of the corresponding luminous element of the first and second light source units, to concentrate and to emit the light emitted from the first and second light source units; and a reflecting plate below the light-guiding plate, so as to reflect the light leaking in a direction away from the LCD panel to the light-guiding plate.” None of the cited references including Yamashita and Kim, singly or in any combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The claimed invention and Yamashita and Kim involve fundamentally different structures.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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